

Message Text

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SUBJECT: EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE: 1977
- IV PROGRAM

REF: STATUS LNO 180, HICOMTERPACIS 290707 JUN 76

PASS STATUS LNO SAIPAN

1. APPRECIATE YOUR REVIEW OF THE IV GRANTEE NOMINATIONS

AND YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING IMPROVEMENTS IN THE PROGRAM. SERIOUS THOUGHT BEING GIVEN HERE ALSO TO METHOD OF SELECTING GRANTEES; COMMENTS REGARDING FUTURE YEARS' PROGRAMS WILL BE CONTAINED IN A LATER MESSAGE.

2. CONCERNING THIS YEAR'S PROGRAM, HOWEVER, WHILE THERE MAY BE DIFFICULTIES IN MAKING CHANGES, IT MAY NEVERTHELESS BE ADVISABLE, IN LIGHT OF PROGRAM OBJECTIVES, TO CONSIDER DOING SO. WHILE SERVING THE BASIC PURPOSES OF EXPANDING CONTACTS AND INCREASING UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PEOPLES, IT IS
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IMPORTANT THAT THE IV GRANTEE PROGRAM AS APPLIED TO MICRO-

NESIA REINFORCE USG OBJECTIVES AT THE TIME WHEN NEGOTIATIONS ARE TAKING PLACE ON THE FUTURE STATUS OF MICRONESIA. THE

STATED PURPOSE OF THE CU PROGRAM IS "TO STRENGTHEN PATTERNS OF INFORMAL TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION IN WAYS WHICH WILL FAVORABLY INFLUENCE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER COUNTRIES". WHILE CANDIDATES SHOULD NOT BE LIMITED TO THOSE WHO ARE ALREADY FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD THE US, AT THE SAME TIME IT WOULD BE UNDESIRABLE TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE USG IS REWARDING INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE BEEN OPENLY HOSTILE TO THE US AND WHO HAVE WORKED AGAINST OUR INTERESTS. THIS IS ALL THE MORE ESSENTIAL WHEN NEGOTIATIONS THAT WILL AFFECT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE US AND MICRONESIA FOR YEARS TO COME ARE CONTINUING. SELECTION OF CANDIDATES SHOULD THEREFORE TIE IN WITH US POLICY FOR MICRONESIA.

3. FOR EXAMPLE, SELECTION OF A MARSHALLESE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO UNITY OF MICRONESIA MIGHT NOT BE IN US BEST INTEREST WHEN THERE ARE OTHER POSSIBLE CANDIDATES MORE SUPPORTIVE OF US POLICY. THERE ARE INFLUENTIAL MARSHALLESE ON BOTH SIDES OF THE QUESTION AND NOMINEE WHO IS AT LEAST OPEN-MINDED TOWARD OUR NEGOTIATING OBJECTIVES WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO A CANDIDATE WHO WOULD WORK AGAINST THESE GOALS. THIS REASONING APPLIES EQUALLY WELL TO PALAUAN CANDIDATES.

4. WHILE REFTTEL POINTS CONCERNING PARTICIPATION OF THE MARIANAS ARE WELL TAKEN, THEIR REPRESENTATION SHOULD NOT BE PRECLUDED. IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE AS MANY AS NINE GRANTEES FROM MICRONESIA FOR FY 77. IF THAT IS INDEED THE CASE, IN ADDITION TO THE PRIMARY CANDIDATES FROM THE FIVE DISTRICTS, IT WOULD SEEM USEFUL TO HAVE ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE MARIANAS, A KUSAIEAN AND AN ADDITIONAL NOMINEE FROM THE MARSHALLS AND FROM TRUK. YOUR COMMENTS ON THIS BREAK-OUT WOULD BE WELCOME.

5. INCREASED COLLABORATION AMONG STATUS LNO, TT GOVERNMENT ELEMENTS AS APPROPRIATE, AND INTERESTED WASHINGTON AGENCIES IN SELECTION OF CANDIDATES WILL STRENGTHEN PROGRAM'S EFFECTIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TIVENESS. ADDITIONAL VIEWS WILL BE PROVIDED IN LATER COMMUNICATION.

6. ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES CONCUR.

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